(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEB):(a) and (b). Salem Steel Plant (SSP) have not yet procured a steckel mill. SSP had floated a global tender in August, 1991 for design, manufacture, assembly, testing, supply, erection and commissioning of a steckel mill. Bids received are due for opening in February, 1992.

(c) and (d). SAIL do not propose to buy a second hand steckel mill for SSP as its products will not be of the quality required.

[*Translation*]

Simplification of Procedure for Issuing Lease Under Forest Conservation Act

4743. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan for simplification of the procedure for issuing lease under the Forest Conservation Act in order to develop exploration of minerals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to empower the State Governments for granting exemption for undertaking Mineral exploration in plots of specific sizes in the areas other than sancturaries;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALARAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No such formal proposal has been received from the Government of Rajasthan under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) Does not arese.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) As per Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, prior approval of the Central Government is required before using any forest area for non-forestry purpose.

Assistance to Drought Affected States

4744. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR:
SHRI K. PRADHANI
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
KUMARI VIMLA VERMA:
SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI:
SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI RAM NAIK
SHRI RAM KAPSE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States/Union Terrirories affected by drought;

(b) the estimated loss caused thereby to crops and livestock in each affected State/ Union Territory;

(c) the Central assistance sougt by each such State/Union Territory and the amount actually released;

(d) the State/Union Territory visited by the Central Team(s) in this regard; and